WEST Search History

DATE: Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Set Name side by side	Query	Hit Count	Set Name result set
	DB=USPT; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES; OP=OR		
L15	L14 and (transmit$ with (software or code)) and ((seller or merchant) with offer$)	1	L15
L14	6029141.pn.	1	L14
L13	L12 and ((associate or affiliate) near2 web$)	4	L13
L12	6615166.pn. or 6607136.pn. or 6536037.pn. or 6519071.pn. or 6029141.pn.	4	L12
L11	L9 and ((associate or affiliate) near2 web$)	6	L11
L10	L9 and ((associate or affiliate) with web$)	27	L10
L9	L1 and (transmit$ with (software or code)) and ((seller or merchant) with offer$)	27	L9
L8	L1 and (transmit$ with execut$ with code) and ((seller or merchant) with offer$)	0	L8
L7	L3 and ((seller or merchant) with offer$)	20	L7
L6	L5 and ((associate or affiliate) with web$)	11	L6
L5	L4 and (transmit$ with code)	11	L5
L4	L3 and (offer$ and updat$)	24	L4
L3	L2 and l1	29	L3
L2	((705/26 |705/28)!.CCLS.)	1235	L2
L1	((associate or affiliate) with web$) and ad<=20010601	438	L1

END OF SEARCH HISTORY

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L13: Entry 4 of 4   File: USPT   Feb 22, 2000

US-PAT-NO: 6029141
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6029141 A

TITLE: Internet-based customer referral system

DATE-ISSUED: February 22, 2000

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
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Kaphan; Sheldon J.	Seattle	WA		
Ratajak; Ellen L.	Seattle	WA		
Schonhoff; Thomas K.	Seattle	WA		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
Amazon.com, Inc.	Seattle	WA			02

APPL-NO: 08/ 883770   [PALM]
DATE FILED: June 27, 1997

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/27; 705/26, 705/10
US-CL-CURRENT: 705/27; 705/10, 705/26

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/27, 705/10, 705/14, 705/26, 707/513, 395/200.3, 395/200.33, 395/200.53, 395/200.54, 395/200.57

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Search Selected | | Search ALL |

	PAT-NO	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
☐	5319542	June 1994	King, Jr. et al.	705/27
☐	5537314	July 1996	Kanter	
☐	5590197	December 1996	Chen et al.	
☐	5712979	January 1998	Graber et al.	395/200.54
☐	5715314	February 1998	Payne et al.	380/24
☐	5717860	February 1998	Graber et al.	395/200.57
☐	5724424	March 1998	Gifford	380/24
☐	5745681	April 1998	Levine et al.	395/200.3
☐	5812769	September 1998	Graber et al.	395/200.58
☐	5819285	October 1998	Damico et al.	707/104

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Dialog file 16 (database PROMT(R)), No. 6016914, "BookSite launches version 3.0 of the popular electronic commerce web site.", Business Wire, 2 pages, Feb. 23, 1996.
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Can Mixing `Cookies` with Online Marketing be a Receipe for Heartburn? (Infoworld, vol. 18, No. 30), Jul. 22, 1996.
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Selected document from Books.com Web site describing Book Stacks Unlimited links partner program, downloaded and printed Jun. 20, 1997 and Jun. 23, 1997.
Selected documents from Incognito Cafe Web site describing several on-line bookstore links, undated (5 printed pages).
Resnick, P., Iacovou, N., Suchak, M., Bergstrom, P., and Riedl, J., GroupLens: An Open Architecture for Collaborative Filtering of Netnews. Proceedings of ACM 1994 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work, Chapel Hill, NC, pp. 175-186.
Balabanovic, M., and Shoham, Y., Fab: Content-Based, Collaborative Recommendation. Communications of the ACM, vol. 40., No. 3, (Mar. 1997) pp. 66-73.

ART-UNIT: 271

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Voeltz; Emanuel Todd

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Kalinowski; Alexander

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Knobbe, Martens Olson & Bear, LLP

ABSTRACT:

Disclosed is an Internet-based referral system that enables individuals and other business entities ("associates") to market products, in return for a commission, that are sold from a merchant's Web site. The system includes automated registration software that runs on the merchant's Web site to allow entities to register as associates. Following registration, the associate sets up a Web site (or other information dissemination system) to distribute hypertextual catalog documents that includes marketing information (product reviews, recommendations, etc.) about selected products of the merchant. In association with each such product, the catalog document includes a hypertextual "referral link" that allows a user ("customer") to link to the merchant's site and purchase the product. When a customer selects a referral link, the customer's computer transmits unique IDs of the selected product and of the associate to the merchant's site, allowing the merchant to identify the product and the referring associate. If the customer subsequently purchases the product from the merchant's site, a commission is automatically credited to an account of the referring associate. The merchant site

also implements an electronic shopping cart that allows the customer to select products from multiple different Web sites, and then perform a single "check out" from the merchant's site.

42 Claims, 14 Drawing figures

WEST

End of Result Set

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L15: Entry 1 of 1   File: USPT   Feb 22, 2000

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6029141 A
TITLE: Internet-based customer referral system

US Patent No. (1):
6029141

Brief Summary Text (13):
In accordance with another aspect of the invention, the merchant site implements an
automated associate enrollment process for allowing individuals and business
entities to register as associates. The enrollment process is implemented in part by
Web pages that are transmitted to the computer of the associate applicant, and by
enrollment software that runs on the merchant site. During the enrollment process,
the applicant is presented with an online business agreement (in the form of a Web
page) that sets forth the terms and conditions of doing business with the merchant.
In addition, the applicant is presented with an online form that requests various
information, such as the name, payment address and e-mail address of the applicant
and a description of the proposed associate Web site. In one implementation, the
enrollment software includes text scanning code that automatically scans the
completed form for pre-specified words and phrases (vulgarities, etc.) that may give
rise to a rejection of the application, and flags the application for further
(human) review when such a word or phrase is found.

Detailed Description Text (41):
As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, the use of the URL-embedded
referral information to identify the associate allows the associate to be
identified, and properly credited for the referral, with a high degree of
reliability. For example, in contrast to conventional user tracking techniques, the
present method allows the associate to be reliably identified even if the associate
Web site 100 operates behind a firewall. In addition, the method provides a high
degree of flexibility to the associate. For example, the associate can change to a
different Internet service provider, and can use or switch between multiple catalog
dissemination techniques (Web, e-mail, PUSH, etc.), without affecting the ability of
the merchant Web site 106 to identify and credit the associate. Moreover, the
associate can freely modify its product offerings--without the need for involvement
by the merchant--by simply updating product descriptions and corresponding referral
links within the catalog.

Detailed Description Text (85):
The merchant Web site also preferably includes report generation software (FIG. 1)
that automatically generates and transmits associate feedback reports to respective
associates, based on information stored by the merchant Web site. The software can
be configured to generate the reports on a daily, weekly, monthly and/or annual
basis. The information contained within these reports enables the associates to
evaluate the effectiveness of their Web sites on a per-product basis.

⸫

WEST

End of Result Set

☐ | Generate Collection | Print

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6029141 A
TITLE: Internet-based customer referral system

US Patent No. (1):
6029141

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In accordance with another aspect of the invention, the merchant site implements an
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Web pages that are transmitted to the computer of the associate applicant, and by
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and a description of the proposed associate Web site. In one implementation, the
enrollment software includes text scanning code that automatically scans the
completed form for pre-specified words and phrases (vulgarities, etc.) that may give
rise to a rejection of the application, and flags the application for further
(human) review when such a word or phrase is found.

Brief Summary Text (17):
In one implementation, the various components are provided on the Web site of
AMAZON.COM as part of the AMAZON.COM Associates Program. Through this program, an
individual or business entity can register as an AMAZON.COM associate, and can then
set up a Web site to market customized subsets of the books (typically in a
particular area of expertise) available from the AMAZON.COM site. For example, a
computer company can set up a site (or add an area to an existing site) to recommend
and sell selected books on computer programming languages, and a Cajun chef can set
up a site to recommend and sell selected books on New Orleans style cooking. The
associate is in turn paid a commission or other consideration based on the referrals
that result in actual purchases. Because AMAZON.COM handles the various tasks
associated with processing orders from customers (including shipping, collections,
and customer service), the associate need only be concerned with the administration
of the associate Web site.

Drawing Description Text (8):
FIG. 6 is a screen display illustrating an HTML catalog document of the associate's
Web site.

Drawing Description Text (9):
FIG. 7 is an HTML listing illustrating a preferred method for embedding a referral
link within a catalog document of an associate's Web site.

Detailed Description Text (25):
FIG. 1 illustrates the general architecture of a referral system that operates in
accordance with the present invention. The system includes a customer computer 108,
an associate Web site 100, and a merchant Web site 106, all of which are linked
together by the Internet 104. The customer computer 108 may be any type of computing
device that allows a user ("customer") to interactively browse Web sites via a Web

browser 112. For example, the customer computer 108 may be a personal computer (PC) that runs the Windows NT operating system.

Detailed Description Text (26):
The merchant Web site 106 is a site that provides various functionality for allowing customers to purchase products, including products selected from the Web sites of associates. Typically, this site will be operated by a business entity (referred to herein as the "merchant") that handles the various order processing, shipping, collections, and customer service tasks associated with the sale of goods. In an implementation described herein, the merchant Web site 106 is the site of AMAZON.COM.

Detailed Description Text (27):
As described below, the site 106 includes enrollment software that implements an online registration process for allowing other entities (individuals, companies, etc.) to register as associates. An entity enrolling as an associate provides the merchant Web site 106 with a completed, online registration application that is processed by an enrollment software program ("SW") at the site 106. The enrollment software creates an entry in the associate database 160 according to the information provided by the enrolling associate.

Detailed Description Text (28):
The associate's Web site 100 is the site of an entity that has registered with the merchant, via the online registration process, to market a subset of the merchant's goods in return for compensation (preferably a performance-based commission). Typically, this site is owned and operated by an individual or business entity ("associate") that is not in the same business as that of the merchant. For example, in the context of the AMAZON.COM Associates Program, the associate may be an individual that is in the business of rating mystery novels.

Detailed Description Text (31):
In operation, the customer accesses the associate's Web site 100 using a standard Web browser 112, such as Microsoft's Internet Explorer or Netscape's Navigator, which uses the HTTP protocol to communicate with a Web server 116 of the associate's site 100. The Web server 116 accesses a local store of catalog documents 120 (in the form of HTML or "Web" documents) which can be requested, retrieved and viewed by the customer via the Web browser 112. These catalog documents 120 include information generated by the associate about the various products featured on the associate's Web site 100. Preferably, this information includes editorial descriptions, reviews, and/or recommendations of the products that assist customers in making informed purchasing decisions.

Detailed Description Text (32):
The catalog documents 120 served by the associate's site 100 include special hyperlinks (to Web pages of the merchant Web site 106) for allowing consumers to select products for prospective purchase. Typically, one such hyperlink is provided for each product displayed on the associate's Web site 100. Alternatively, a hyperlink may be provided for a group of products. When a customer selects (e.g., clicks on) the hyperlink associated with a particular product, the customer is automatically connected to the merchant Web site 106, and presented with various options (included within Web pages 136 served from the merchant Web site 106) for allowing the customer to purchase the selected product from the merchant. The hyperlink thus serves as a referral mechanism for referring the customer to the merchant Web site 106.

Detailed Description Text (40):
In addition, although the system is described in the context of "the" associate's Web site, it should be recognized that a given associate can disseminate its catalog documents (using the single associate ID assigned during online registration) from multiple different sites, including sites that use different document formats and transfer protocols. Further, although the system is described herein in the context of a merchant that sells products, it will be recognized that the architecture can also be used to sell services, including online services that are provided over the Internet.

Detailed Description Text (41):
As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, the use of the URL-embedded
referral information to identify the associate allows the associate to be
identified, and properly credited for the referral, with a high degree of
reliability. For example, in contrast to conventional user tracking techniques, the
present method allows the associate to be reliably identified even if the associate
Web site 100 operates behind a firewall. In addition, the method provides a high
degree of flexibility to the associate. For example, the associate can change to a
different Internet service provider, and can use or switch between multiple catalog
dissemination techniques (Web, e-mail, PUSH, etc.), without affecting the ability of
the merchant Web site 106 to identify and credit the associate. Moreover, the
associate can freely modify its product offerings--without the need for involvement
by the merchant--by simply updating product descriptions and corresponding referral
links within the catalog.

Detailed Description Text (49):
As further illustrated in FIG. 2, the enrolling associate begins the enrollment
function by selecting the proper hyperlink from the merchant Web page 136 containing
online registration instructions. The merchant Web server 132 accesses a local store
of HTML documents 136 and returns an online registration application document 208
(also shown in FIGS. 3a-3c) to the enrolling associate's Web browser 204. The
enrolling associate can then fill out the detailed online application form 208.

Detailed Description Text (50):
Referring to FIGS. 3a-3c, a preferred embodiment of the online application form 208
is shown. The application requests information about the enrolling associate,
including the Web server to be used for the associate's Web site, the associate Web
site's descriptive name, and the e-mail address of the enrolling associate. Many
alternative formats to the online application form are possible and FIGS. 3a-3c are
only representative of the types of information that may be requested.

Detailed Description Text (54):
Next, the computer program 144 automatically formats and transmits an electronic
mail message to the e-mail address of the approved associate. This electronic mail
message provides detailed information about setting up an associate's Web site,
including instructions on how to create HTML documents with referral links. These
instructions specify a predefined format for embedding the store ID and unique
product IDs with the HTML link structures. In addition, the e-mail message includes
the unique store ID (generated by the enrollment software), and includes
instructions on obtaining unique product IDs. The associate can obtain the unique
product IDs by browsing the merchant Web site 106. Alternatively, the unique product
IDs may be obtained by the associate through a specific electronic mail request, or
may be provided by the merchant Web site when the initial electronic mail response
is sent. A preferred set of linking instructions that are sent to new associates is
included as Appendix A.

Detailed Description Text (56):
Upon receipt of the special linking instructions, the associate can begin to build
the content (catalog documents) of the associate's Web site, including the
descriptions of the products to be featured on the site. An associate can begin to
refer customers to the merchant Web site 106 at anytime; however, no credit may be
given to the associate for referred customers until the associate has included
properly-formatted referral links within its product catalog. Additionally, referral
credit may be withheld if the merchant has not yet authenticated and qualified the
associate Web site for business.

Detailed Description Text (58):
A preferred method for processing referral events will now be described with
reference to FIGS. 5-7. Referring to FIG. 5, which depicts an example sequence of
events, a customer accesses an associate's Web site 100 via the customer computer
108. The customer computer 108 includes a conventional Web browser 112 which
communicates with the associate's Web server 116 using the HTTP protocol. As
depicted by events A and B, the Web server 116 accesses a local store of catalog
documents 120 (Web pages) which can be requested, retrieved and viewed by the
customer via the Web browser 112. As described above, these catalog documents 120

include information about the various products featured at the associate's Web site
100. Preferably, this information includes editorial descriptions, reviews, and
recommendations generated by the associate.

Detailed Description Text (59):
FIG. 6 illustrates an example HTML catalog document (Web page) 120 in accordance
with the present invention. The customer views the product catalog document 120 via
the Web browser 112 in order to select a particular product (book) offered through
the associate's Web site 100. In this example, the catalog document 120 comprises a
graphic icon 600 that is a scaled-down replica of an actual book cover. The graphic
icon 600 also functions as a hyperlink, allowing the customer to click on the icon
with a mouse in order to link to the merchant Web site 106. The document 120
includes the title 602 and author of the book 604, and includes an editorial
description and recommendation of the book 606 from the associate. The catalog
document 120 also contains another textual hyperlink 608, allowing the customer to
link to the merchant Web site 106 and initiate referral transaction processing.
Typically, the associate's product catalog (which may include multiple catalog
pages) contains several referral links (with different product IDs), each
corresponding to a different product sold by the merchant.

Detailed Description Text (62):
Once the customer has linked to the merchant Web site 106, the customer can use the
navigational controls of the Web browser 112 to return to the associate's Web site
100. In addition, the detail page and/or the shopping cart page may be provided with
a hyperlink to allow the customer to return to the associate's Web site 100. Another
alternative is for the associate Web site 100 to be created using an HTML frame
format. The bottom frame can be designated as the target area frame for the
merchant's Web site 106. The top frame can provide navigational controls for the
customer to return to the associate's Web site 100 after selection of a particular
product at the merchant's Web site 106. This allows the customer to maintain an
associate's Web page frame while viewing and processing product purchases at the
merchant's Web site 106.

Detailed Description Text (68):
As discussed above, the present invention provides a system for maintaining a
unified shopping cart that stores product information associated with product
referrals from multiple Web sites, and keeps track of the sources (associates) of
such referrals. One benefit of this feature is that it enables the customer to
perform a single "check out" to purchase products from multiple Web sites.
Additionally, this feature allows the merchant Web site 106 to accurately track and
credit each associate, on a per-product-sale basis, that has referred a customer.
For example, if, upon "check-out" from the merchant Web site 106, the customer has
three books listed in the shopping cart, each of which resulted from a referral from
a different associate Web site, each associate will be credited for its respective
referral. While the shopping cart feature is particularly useful in the context of
the disclosed referral system, the feature can also be applied to other types of
Internet shopping systems that support shopping from multiple Web sites, including
systems that use remote "agents" to monitor Web sites based on pre-specified
selections of the customer.

Detailed Description Text (69):
The data structures and processing steps that implement the shopping cart will now
be described with further reference to FIG. 5. As indicated above, the shopping cart
maintains a customer-specific record of the products that have been selected by the
customer, including the identities of any associate Web sites that acted as referral
sources with respect to such products. Preferably, the computer program 144
maintains this information in a data structure that is stored on the Web site 106
for an extended period of time (such as one week) since the last access to the
shopping cart by the user. This allows the customer to discontinue and later resume
a shopping session without loss of the shopping cart data.

Detailed Description Text (78):
The URL (shown at the top of FIG. 8) comprises the unique customer ID 800 (obtained
from the customer's cookie or URL information), the product ID 802 (shown as the
ISBN of the Terrain Skiing book), the store ID 804 (shown as the "skinet" Web site),

and the associate commission ID 806 (the letter "A"). Once the customer has reviewed the product detail page 136, the customer can select the "Add it to your Shopping Cart" hyperlink 808. When the customer clicks on this hyperlink 808, the merchant Web server 132 returns a dynamically-generated HTML document that displays the contents of the shopping cart.

Detailed Description Text (80):
FIG. 10a represents another associate's Web site where the customer can view products featured with editorial comments. For purposes of this example, it may be assumed that the customer proceeded directly to this site (e.g., by selecting a "favorite places" URL) from the shopping cart page of FIG. 9. If the customer selects the hyperlink 1000, the merchant Web server returns the product detail page for the "Cooking with Daniel Boulud" book, as illustrated in FIG. 10b. The customer may then add this book to the shopping cart by selecting the "Add it to your Shopping Cart" hyperlink 1002, and the customer will then be brought to the shopping cart Web page illustrated in FIG. 10c. The shopping cart now has product selection items corresponding to the two books selected by the customer during the shopping session, and each of these product selection items is stored in the shopping cart database to uniquely identify the respective associate that made the referral. When the customer selects the "Proceed to Checkout" hyperlink 1004 on the shopping cart Web page, the merchant Web site returns a form document (not shown) that allows the customer to specify payment information, shipping information, and other information needed to process the order.

Detailed Description Text (81):
As illustrated by the above example, one customer shopping cart can have line items (corresponding to book selections) from many different associate Web sites. In addition, the shopping cart can include line items of books that have been selected directly from the merchant. As described above, because the shopping cart keeps track of each referral, the referring associates can efficiently be credited for their respective referrals upon order submission, without the need for the customer to perform multiple "check-outs."

CLAIMS:

7. A method of selling items with the assistance of associates, the method comprising:

providing a Web site system that includes a browsable catalog of items and provides services for allowing customers to electronically purchase the items;

providing a database which contains information about a plurality of associates that select and recommend items from the catalog within respective areas of expertise, at least some of the associates operating associate Web sites that include item-specific links to the Web site system;

receiving from a computer of a customer a request message which contains an associate identifier and an item identifier and extracting the associate and item identifiers from the message, the request message generated in response to selection by the customer of a link of an associate Web site, the link provided in conjunction with a recommendation of the item by an associate;

transmitting to the customer's computer a Web page which corresponds to the item identifier extracted from the request message;

transacting a sale of the item and/or other items of the catalog with the customer through the Web site system;

using the associate identifier extracted from the request message and the database to identify the associate; and

compensating the associate for the sale.

14. A method of facilitating electronic purchases of items, comprising:

providing a Web site system that includes a browsable catalog of items and provides
services for allowing customers to electronically purchase items from the catalog;

providing a system for allowing associates to operate associate Web sites that
display selected items of the catalog and refer customers to the Web site system in
exchange for compensation;

tracking a customer's selections of a plurality of items of the catalog from
multiple different associate Web sites, wherein different items of the plurality are
selected by the customer from different associate Web sites;

maintaining a record of the plurality of items selected by the customer within a
shopping cart data structure within a computer memory of the Web site system;

with the Web site system, transacting a sale of the plurality of items recorded
within the shopping cart data structure to the customer; and

in response to the sale, determining, for each of the associate Web sites from which
the items were selected, compensation for a corresponding associate.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein maintaining a record of the plurality of items
comprises storing within the shopping cart data structure identifiers that
correspond to the associate Web sites from which the respective items were selected.

16. The method of claim 14, further comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

generating a report that contains information about customer referrals produced by
an associate Web; and

transmitting the report to a corresponding associate.

17. A method of selling items from a catalog of items with the assistance of
associates, the catalog accessible to users of a merchant Web site system which
provides services for allowing users to electronically purchase items from the
catalog, the method comprising:

enrolling a plurality of associates using an online registration system;

initiating electronic transfers to the associates of instructions for creating Web
pages with links that are formatted to enable referrals of customers from Web sites
of the associates to the merchant Web site to be tracked;

tracking referrals of customers from the Web sites of the associates to the merchant
Web site system; and

determining compensation for the associates for the referrals of customers that
result in purchases of items from the catalog.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein enrolling a plurality of associates comprises
providing electronic access to a document which contains terms and conditions for
operating an associate Web site.

23. A method of operating a virtual store to sell items in association with a
merchant that operates a merchant Web site, the method comprising:

providing an associate Web site which is separate from the merchant Web site;

selecting from an electronic catalog of the merchant Web site a subset of items of
the catalog to display within the associate Web site, the subset including at least
one item;

for each item of the subset, incorporating into the associate Web site (a) a
description and/or graphical representation of the item, and (b) a link which
permits a user of the associate Web site to access the merchant Web site to purchase

the item, the link formatted such that selection of the link by the user causes a
computer of the user to generate a request message which includes an item identifier
and an associate identifier; and

receiving compensation for at least one referral of a user to the merchant Web site
that results in a sale, the referral resulting from selection of the link.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising generating an editorial description
of at least one of the items of the subset, and incorporating the editorial
description into the associate Web site.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein selecting from the electronic catalog comprises
selecting a plurality of books which fall within a subject-based category to which
the associate Web site pertains.

26. The method of claim 23, further comprising displaying a business name and/or
logo of the merchant within the associate Web site to indicate an affiliation with
the merchant.

27. The method of claim 23, further comprising incorporating into the associate Web
site a link which corresponds to a group of products of the electronic catalog.

28. The method of claim 23, further comprising receiving an electronic report which
contains data about customer referrals and resulting purchases produced by the
associate Web site.

36. A computer-implemented system which implements a program in which associates of
a merchant electronically refer customers to a Web site of the merchant, the system
comprising:

an associate registration system which implements an electronic application process
to at least partially automate enrollment of associates, the associate registration
system providing associates electronic access to instructions for forming Web pages
with links that are formatted to permit tracking of customer referrals to the Web
site;

a referral processing system which tracks referrals of customers to the Web site
from associates using associate identifiers contained within request messages, the
request messages generated by customer computers in response to selection of links
provided by the associates according to the instructions; and

a compensation system which determines and maintains records of compensation for the
respective associates for the customer referrals that result in purchases of items
from a catalog of the Web site.

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☐ [Generate Collection] [Print]

US-PAT-NO: 6609106
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6609106 B1

TITLE: System and method for providing electronic multi-merchant gift registry services over a distributed network

DATE-ISSUED: August 19, 2003

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Robertson; Steven C.	Kent	WA	98042	

APPL-NO: 09/ 307166   [PALM]
DATE FILED: May 7, 1999

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/26; 705/27, 705/14
US-CL-CURRENT: 705/26; 705/14, 705/27

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/26, 705/27, 705/14

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[Search Selected] [Search ALL]

	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
☐	5113496	May 1992	McCalley et al.	710/305
☐	5754981	May 1998	Veeneman et al.	705/26
☐	5774874	June 1998	Veeneman et al.	705/27
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☐	5895468	April 1999	Whitmyer, Jr.	707/10
☐	5898594	April 1999	Leason et al.	700/231
☐	5963915	October 1999	Kirsch	705/26
☐	5970474	October 1999	LeRoy et al.	705/27
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☐	6360254	March 2002	Linden et al.	709/219
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Anon., "Retailers Say `I Do` to Wedding Web Site," The Wall Street Journal, vol. CCXXXIII, No. 111, p. B9, Jun. 9, 1999.

ART-UNIT: 3625

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Rosen; Nicholas David

ABSTRACT:

An online Gift Registry Service provides registration of information for a gift registrant and allows access to the registry by potential gift giver users. In addition, users can tag items of interest at participating Service Provider (SP) sites and the SP sites will register these items with the Gift Registry Service on the user's behalf. It further provides a streamlined checkout process for purchasing these gift items with the registered SP sites (e.g. World Wide Web sites) over a distributed public network. Users and Service Providers (SP) initially register with the Gift Registry Service and are provided additional functionality. For users, a reminder service is provided to notify individuals automatically upon the trigger of certain events, such as important dates or product sales from online merchants. In addition, there are various occasion planning services available such as distribution lists, discussion groups, and other related resources for multiple events including weddings, baby showers, etc. These other resources include sending out announcements, reserving halls, and contracting services of related businesses for the occasion. A distinct advantage of this system is that users can perform all the planning for the event online in the comfort of their home or office. Service Providers on the other hand, can register system notification messages to be triggered on pre-determined events. In addition, Service Providers can obtain marketing information to tailor their products and services.

19 Claims, 44 Drawing figures

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L4: Entry 2 of 5   File: USPT   Aug 12, 2003

US-PAT-NO: 6606744
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6606744 B1

TITLE: Providing collaborative installation management in a network-based supply
chain environment

DATE-ISSUED: August 12, 2003

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Mikurak; Michael G.	Hamilton	NJ		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
Accenture, LLP	Palo Alto	CA			02

APPL-NO: 09/ 444654   [PALM]
DATE FILED: November 22, 1999

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 9/445

US-CL-ISSUED: 717/174; 717/174, 717/178, 705/26
US-CL-CURRENT: 717/174; 705/26, 717/178

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 717/168, 717/170, 717/171, 717/174, 717/177, 717/172, 717/102,
717/176, 717/178, 705/1, 705/21, 705/26, 705/28, 709/201, 709/217, 709/227

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

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| Search Selected | | Search ALL |

	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
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[ ]	4972453	November 1990	Daniel et al.	
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[ ]	5159685	October 1992	Kung	
[ ]	5297031	March 1994	Gutterman et al.	
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[ ]	5495610	February 1996	Shing et al.	709/221
[ ]	5513343	April 1996	Sakano et al.	
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☐	5611048	March 1997	Jacobs et al.	713/202
☐	5621663	April 1997	Skagerling	
☐	5646864	July 1997	Whitney	
☐	5655068	August 1997	Opoczynksi	
☐	5694546	December 1997	Reisman	
☐	5696975	December 1997	Moore et al.	717/168
☐	5729735	March 1998	Meyering	
☐	5761502	June 1998	Jacobs	
☐	5764543	June 1998	Kennedy	
☐	5768501	June 1998	Lewis	
☐	5819028	October 1998	Manghirmalani et al.	
☐	5832196	November 1998	Croslin et al.	
☐	5864483	January 1999	Brichta	
☐	5864662	January 1999	Brownmiller et al.	
☐	5883955	March 1999	Ronning	
☐	5890175	March 1999	Wong et al.	
☐	5893905	April 1999	Main et al.	
☐	5895454	April 1999	Harrington	
☐	5907490	May 1999	Oliver	
☐	5953707	September 1999	Huang et al.	
☐	5974391	October 1999	Hongawa	
☐	5974395	October 1999	Bellini et al.	705/9
☐	5974403	October 1999	Takriti et al.	
☐	5987423	November 1999	Arnold et al.	
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☐	6006016	December 1999	Faigon et al.	
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☐	6105069	August 2000	Franklin et al.	709/229
☐	6151582	November 2000	Huang et al.	
☐	6157915	December 2000	Bhaskaran et al.	705/7
☐	6167378	December 2000	Weber, Jr.	
☐	6195697	February 2001	Bowman-Amuah	
☐	6199204	March 2001	Donohue	717/178
☐	6219700	April 2001	Chang et al.	709/222
☐	6253339	June 2001	Tse et al.	

	6256676	July 2001	Taylor et al.	709/246
	6289462	September 2001	McNabb et al.	713/201
	6314565	November 2001	Kenner et al.	717/171
	6347398	February 2002	Parthasarthy et al.	717/178
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ART-UNIT: 2122

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Khatri; Anil

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly, LLP Nader; Rambed

ABSTRACT:

A system, method and article of manufacture are provided for collaborative installation management in a network-based supply chain environment. According to an embodiment of the invention, telephone calls, data and other multimedia information are routed through a network system which includes transfer of information across the internet utilizing telephony routing information and internet protocol address information. The system includes integrated Internet Protocol (IP) telephony services allowing a user of a web application to communicate in an audio fashion in-band without having to pick up another telephone. Users can click a button and go to a call center through the network using IP telephony. The system invokes an IP telephony session simultaneously with the data session, and uses an active directory lookup whenever a user uses the system. Users include service providers and manufacturers utilizing the network-based supply chain environment.

18 Claims, 130 Drawing figures

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L4: Entry 3 of 5   File: USPT   Nov 19, 2002

US-PAT-NO: 6484149
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6484149 B1
** See image for Certificate of Correction **

TITLE: Systems and methods for viewing product information, and methods for
generating web pages

DATE-ISSUED: November 19, 2002

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Jammes; Pierre J.	Bellevue	WA		
Franklin; D. Chase	Seattle	WA		
Remington; Darren B.	Issaquah	WA		

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/26

ABSTRACT:

A system and method for designing and operating an electronic store (1) permit a
merchant to organize and advertise descriptions of product inventory over the
Internet, (2) permit Web page information to be extracted on-demand from a product
inventory database, and (3) permit Web pages to be automatically customized to fit
shopping behaviors of individual consumers. A graphical store design user interface
of a Web browser displays a hierarchical representation of products and, product
groups of an electronic store. A user manipulates icons of the Web browser store
design user interface to cause a Web server to modify relationships between products
and product groups stored in a product information database. A store designer
creates HTML template files, embeds database and customize references within the
template files, and assigns template files to groups or products of the electronic
store.

The Web server receives requests to access Web pages from consumers using standard
Web browsers. The Web server opens a template file related to the requested Web
page, creates hyperlinks and other information content by executing database
references embedded within the template file, and merges the hyperlinks and content
with the template file to generate an HTML Web page to send to the Web browser. The
Web server automatically creates additional hyperlinks to any Web pages or products
preferred by the consumer by executing customize instructions associated with
customize references in a template file. To determine whether any products or Web
pages are preferred by a consumer, the Web server examines a traffic analysis
database and extracts the consumer's history of accesses to Web pages and orders of
products. For each Web page the consumer has accessed, the Web server uses preferred
page rules to determine whether the page was accessed with sufficient frequency to
generate a hyperlink to the page. For each product the consumer ordered, the Web
server uses preferred product rules to determine whether the product was ordered
with sufficient frequency to generate a hyperlink to a page offering the product.

17 Claims, 33 Drawing figures
Exemplary Claim Number: 1
Number of Drawing Sheets: 27

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☐ | Generate Collection | Print |

L4: Entry 4 of 5   File: USPT   Sep 3, 2002

US-PAT-NO: 6446045
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6446045 B1

TITLE: Method for using computers to facilitate and control the creating of a plurality of functions

DATE-ISSUED: September 3, 2002

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Stone; Lucinda	Dallas	TX	75240	
Dean; Michael A.	Dallas	TX	75240	

APPL-NO: 09/ 480303   [PALM]
DATE FILED: January 10, 2000

INT-CL: [07] C06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/26
US-CL-CURRENT: 705/26

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/14, 705/26, 705/27

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Search Selected | Search ALL |

	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
☐	5193056	March 1993	Boes	
☐	5581461	December 1996	Coll et al.	
☐	5724520	March 1998	Goheen	
☐	5794207	August 1998	Walker et al.	
☐	5797126	August 1998	Helbling et al.	
☐	5845261	December 1998	McAbian	
☐	5878141	March 1999	Daly et al.	
☐	5884277	March 1999	Khosla	
☐	5893076	April 1999	Hafner et al.	
☐	5946646	August 1999	Schena	
☐	6026371	February 2000	Beck et al.	705/14
☐	6038545	March 2000	Mandeberg et al.	705/27
☐	6064967	May 2000	Speicher	705/14
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☐	6324519	November 2001	Eldering	705/14
☐	2001/0011226	August 2001	Greer et al.	705/14

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FOREIGN-PAT-NO	PUBN-DATE	COUNTRY	US-CL
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"ABC formally launches Reader Profile Service as NAA unveils the NICC's silhouette" Aug. 2, 1999, NewsInc, vol. 11, NO. 1.*
Hamblen, Matt, "Shell protects brand via net" Jan. 10, 2000, Computerworld, vol. 34, No. 2, p. 39.

ART-UNIT: 2167

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Olszewski; Robert P.

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Jaketic; Bryan

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Croskell, Esq.; Henry

ABSTRACT:

The present invention is a method and apparatus that allows competing as well as complementing suppliers, vendors, service providers, purveyors, and other types of sellers internal inventory management as well as controlled design and publication of presentations for external near real-time interactive access to buyer-centered presentation, sales, distribution, and confirmation systems as well as other traditional media advertising and outreach. The Automated Media Presentation Generator including a Publication and Placement Control Engine, integrates a Distributed Sales and Inventory Control structure with Processing and Communications Resource Saver, and further provides a Reservation, Access, and Verification System

replacing traditional ticket and confirmation methods.

23 Claims, 35 Drawing figures

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   L4: Entry 5 of 5                    File: USPT                  Apr 17, 2001
```

US-PAT-NO: 6219653
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6219653 B1

TITLE: Freight calculation system and method of operation

DATE-ISSUED: April 17, 2001

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
O'Neill; John C.	Dallas	TX		
Ainsworth; Johnny V.	Southlake	TX		
Jenkins; Paul D.	Plano	TX		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
Forest Products International Exchange, Inc.	Dallas	TX			02

APPL-NO: 09/ 153473   [PALM]
DATE FILED: September 15, 1998

PARENT-CASE:
CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS This application is related to pending U.S.
patent application Ser. No. 09/153,620, filed on Sep. 15, 1998, by John C. O'Neill
et al., and entitled "Trading Exchange System and Method of Operation," and pending
U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/153,714, filed on Sep. 15, 1998, by John C.
O'Neill et al., and entitled "Trading Exchange System Having a Market Order Builder
and Method of Operation."

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/400; 705/26, 705/29
US-CL-CURRENT: 705/400; 705/26, 705/29

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/1, 705/26, 705/28, 705/29, 705/400

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected	Search ALL

PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
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4495581	January 1985	Piccione	705/402
4677552	June 1987	Sibley, Jr.	364/408
4713761	December 1987	Sharpe et al.	705/30
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5689652	November 1997	Lupien et al.	395/237
5710887	January 1998	Chelliah et al.	395/226
5710889	January 1998	Clark et al.	395/244
5715314	February 1998	Payne et al.	380/24
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5732400	March 1998	Mandler et al.	705/26
5745681	April 1998	Levine et al.	395/200.3
5758328	May 1998	Giovannoli	705/26
5758329	May 1998	Wojcik et al.	705/28
5761432	June 1998	Bergholm et al.	395/200.56
5822737	October 1998	Ogram	705/26
5893076	April 1999	Hafner et al.	705/28
6035289	March 2000	Chou et al.	705/37
6064981	May 2000	Barni et al.	705/26

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN-PAT-NO	PUBN-DATE	COUNTRY	US-CL
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About Trade Compass.
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"InterWorld Adds Tandata's Logistics Management Software To Its Leading Internet
Commerce System"; PR Newswire, Sep. 8, 1997, pp. 908NYM048.

ART-UNIT: 211

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Cosimano; Edward

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Baker Botts L.L.P.

ABSTRACT:

A freight calculation system includes a seller client, a buyer client, and a
platform coupled to the seller client and the buyer client using a communication
network. The seller client generates freight data and communicates it using a
communication network. The buyer client communicates a delivery request for a load
using the communication network. The delivery request specifies one of a number of
delivery containers, an origination location, and a destination location. The
platform receives and stores the freight data and determines a delivery cost for the
load using the freight data, the specified delivery container, the origination
location, and the destination location.

31 Claims, 37 Drawing figures